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arc[1,noun] arc[2,intransitive verb] arc ARC arc-back arc-boutant arc chute arc cosecant arc cosine arc cotangent arc de triomphe arc furnace arc lamp arc light arc of action arc of approach arc of contact arc of lowitz arc of meridian

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arc of recess



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Main Entry: ¹arc Pronunciation Guide

Pronunciation: 'ärk, 'åk

Function: noun Inflected Form(s): -s

Etymology: Middle English ark, from Middle French arc, from

Latin arcus bow, arc -- more at ARROW

1: the apparent path described above and below the horizon by the sun or other celestial body

2: something that is arched or curved: an arched or curved shape or figure <with eyebrows raised in a quizzical arc> <he bent the twig into an arc>: as a obsolete : ARCH < triumphal arcs -- John Milton> b: a geologic or topographic feature repeated along a curving line on the earth's surface <island arcs ... so well developed in the western Pacific -- F.P.Shepard> <volcanic arcs> c(1): a sustained brilliantly luminous glow sometimes having the appearance of a curved line of flame that is formed under certain conditions when a break is made in an electric circuit (2): a spotlight or lamp that uses an electric arc as the light source d: one of the curved stripes that close the open angle at the bottom or top of certain chevrons on military uniforms e: the quarter circle enclosing the service box on a squash rackets court

3: a continuous portion of a curved line or path (as part of a circle or an ellipse)

4: angular measure -- used chiefly in the phrase of arc <11 minutes 3 seconds of arc>

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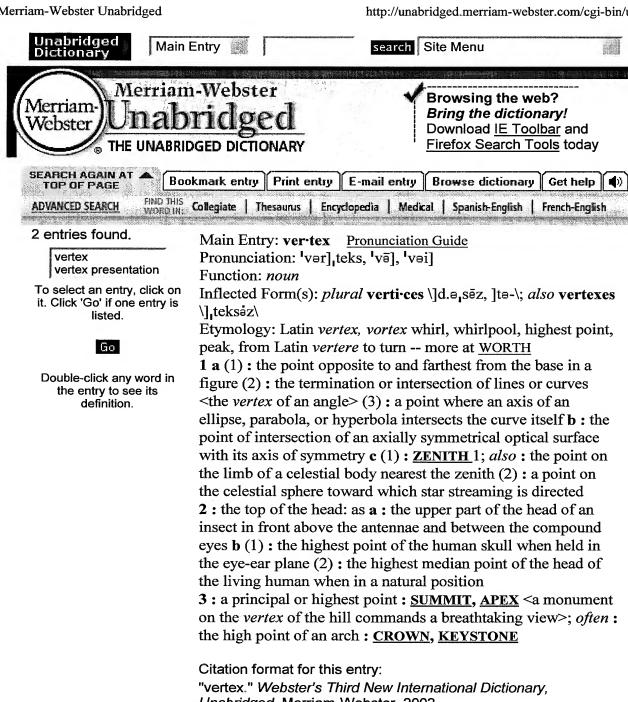
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